frozen semen technique outside Operation Flood II areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance given to Orissa to implement the schemes so far; and

(c) the names of the districts in Orissa which have been covered under the above programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) ; (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 111·16 lakhs has been released to the State Government of Orissa as Central assistance for implementation of the scheme so far.

(c) Four districts, namely Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir and Phulbani are covered under this scheme.

Measures suggested by FCI to bring down the prices

2023. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has suggested certain measures to Government to bring down the prices of foodgrains to a manageable level;

(b) if so, what are the details of the measures or programmes suggested by the Food Corporation of India; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to implement those proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loans to economically weaker sections of society for Housing

2024. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to formulate a scheme to provide loan to persons belonging to economically weaker sections for construction of houses on easy terms;

(b) if so, what are the details there of;

(c) the amount earmarked for implementation of that scheme; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) EWS Housing is one of the Social Housing Schemes already under operation. A provision for direct public sector assistance to the persons belonging to EWS was made in the 6th Plan. The strategy was to provide Sites and Services Scheme with enough funds for a minimum structure, the beneficiaries to be given loans upto Rs. 3000 per unit repayable over a period of 20—25 years at concessional rates of interest. This amount has been raised to Rs. 5000 in the 7th Plan. Besides this, 55% of the total loans sanctioned by Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to housing construction agencies in the States/ U.Ts are for the benefit of persons belonging to EWS and LIG.

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2025. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of